

4 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 4 September 1969

In response to the Director's questions, Carver reported that Ho Chi Minh's death occurred at 2047 hours EDT, 2 September. Godfrey said that the Operations Center received word at about 1730 hours, 3 September. The Director noted that he had been in his office until 1815 hours and had not been informed.

DDI reported that Bruce Clarke had talked to Mr. Baroody of Secretary Laird's staff yesterday regarding the production of a paper on the evolution of the Soviet Navy since 1960 and the outlook for the 1970's. The paper will be used by Secretary Laird for background in preparing for a talk at the National Press Club. The paper will be delivered to Mr. Baroody early next week.

DDI reported on his lunch yesterday with Mr. William Strasburg, Director of the new Assessments Section of USIA. Strasburg, a young and experienced newspaper publisher, [REDACTED]

DDI reported that, after talking with [REDACTED] yesterday, it was agreed that the latter's briefing on Micronesia would be delayed.

DDI reported that DIA had requested that CIA and State concur in data on NVA strength in and around South Vietnam which would be released to Bill Downs of ABC TV. Although OER discussed our estimate of NVA infiltration, it was unwilling to associate the Agency with the DIA release because DIA was unwilling or unable to furnish information on the context in which the figures would be used. OER and Carver also believe the DIA figures contain some errors.

Godfrey noted that the first Phantom aircraft would be delivered to Israel tomorrow, and that high Communist leaders were arriving in Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh's funeral.

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Abbot Smith reported that the CIA [ ] officer at the National War College wanted to borrow thirty copies of three NIE's for use by the students. Mr. Smith recommended that the Director not approve the request. The Director decided to defer a decision pending receipt of a recommendation from General Cushman.

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Carver initiated a discussion of the possible clues to Ho Chi Minh's succession as reflected in Hanoi's reports of funeral arrangements.

Maury reported on further discussions with Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff member, Paul, regarding the latter's desire to recall FE station personnel to testify at hearings on US policy toward Southeast Asian countries. The Director said that he would discuss this matter with Senator Symington. Maury also reported that Senator Jackson would not return to Washington until 7 September, and that Congressman Reid would visit the Agency today.

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Executive Director reported that several components had not turned in their budget estimates for FY 1971. He emphasized that all estimates must be submitted by COB, 5 September.

Executive Director noted with gratification that for the first time in twenty years the Agency had last year destroyed more documents in the Records Center than had been received there. He noted that the long-term solution to the problem depended on our ability to reduce the quantity of records kept.

-2-

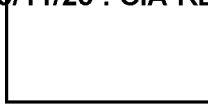
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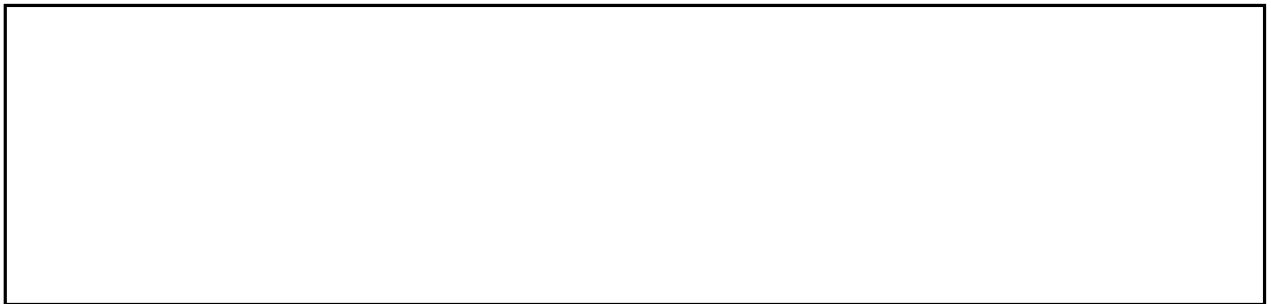


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General Cushman reported that he would leave for  on the afternoon of 5 September and return to Headquarters by the afternoon of 8 September.

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The Director reported that he had received Secretary Laird's comments on NIE 11-8-69 only yesterday although they had been requested ten days ago.



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L. K. White

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